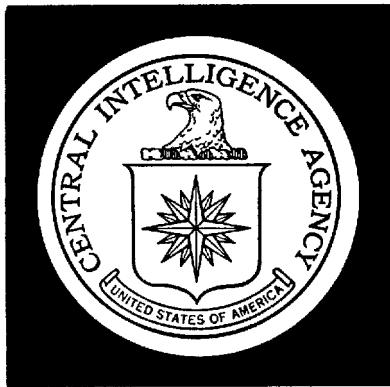


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Egypt: Nasir decries US support for Israel, but privately shows interest in resuming diplomatic relations. [redacted]

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EGYPT: NASIR CONTINUES PUBLICLY TO DECRY US SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL WHILE INDICATING PRIVATELY HIS INTEREST IN THE RESUMPTION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE US.

IN A SPEECH ON THURSDAY TO THE CONGRESS OF THE ARAB SOCIALIST UNION, NASIR EMPHASIZED THE EXPLOSIVENESS OF THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION. WITH AN EYE TO THE OPENING OF THE FOUR-POWER TALKS, AND IN RESPONSE TO DOMESTIC ANXIETIES AND PRESSURES, HE DEFENDED THE EXTENSIVE SUPPORT MOSCOW HAS EXTENDED TO CAIRO AND ATTACKED THE US POSITION AS ONE OF TOTAL SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL. THE US, NASIR CLAIMED, "BEARS A GREAT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DANGEROUS ROAD ON WHICH THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS IS PROCEEDING."

PRIVately, HOWEVER, NASIR CONTINUES TO RAISE THE IDEA OF RESUMING RELATIONS WITH THE US. [REDACTED]

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DURING TALKS BETWEEN NASIR AND FORMER TREASURY SECRETARY ROBERT ANDERSON IN MID-MARCH, NASIR SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO RESTORE RELATIONS BUT THAT HE NEEDED SOME JUSTIFICATION FOR DOING IT. NASIR ALLEGED THAT MANY IN EGYPT WERE AGAINST SUCH A MOVE, HENCE HIS NEED FOR AN EXCUSE. THIS LINE IS SIMILAR TO ONE HE RECENTLY GAVE TO JORDANIAN KING HUSAYN.

TO BOLSTER HIS CONTENTION THAT THE US SHOULD ACCOMMODATE HIM, NASIR DESCRIBED A PERVERSIVE SOVIET PRESENCE IN EGYPT WHICH INCLUDED MILITARY ADVISERS DOWN TO THE PLATOON LEVEL. NASIR ALSO INTIMATED THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD BE FORCED TO INVOLVE THEMSELVES DIRECTLY IN ANY FUTURE ARAB-ISRAELI WAR. IT IS DOUBTFUL, HOWEVER, THAT THE SOVIET PRESENCE EXTENDS TO SUCH A LOW LEVEL ON A WIDE SCALE OR THAT THE SOVIETS VIEW THEMSELVES AS COMMITTED TO INTERVENE IN ANY FUTURE CONFLICT. IT IS EQUALLY DOUBTFUL THAT NASIR HIMSELF ACTUALLY BELIEVES THAT SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IS A FOREGONE CONCLUSION. [REDACTED]

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